

U.S. Patent App. Serial No. 10/806,870
Examiner: C.T. Cajilig
Art Unit: 3637
Docket: BS030749

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

[[[c01]]]Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A wire channel device for use with an upper siding panel and a lower siding panel, comprising:

an upwardly extending arm having a top portion, a bottom portion, an inner surface, and an outer surface, the outer surface of the top portion having a wedgeable projection to engage and to secure the wire channel device between ~~[[an]]the~~ upper siding panel and ~~[[a]]the~~ lower siding panel;

a transverse leg extending outwardly from the outer surface of the bottom portion of the arm towards a downwardly extending leg of a wire channel;

the wire channel having the downwardly extending leg, a channel portion, and a rear upwardly extending leg,

wherein the downwardly extending leg is longer than the rear upwardly extending leg and wherein an interior of the channel portion defines a channel to retain a wire.

[[[c02]]]Claim 2 (Currently Amended) The wire channel device of claim 1, wherein the channel portion comprises a substantially "U"-shaped channel.

[[[c03]]]Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The wire channel device of claim 1, wherein the channel portion comprises a substantially rectangular-shaped channel.

[[[c04]]]Claim 4 (Currently Amended) The wire channel device of claim 1, wherein the channel portion comprises a substantially "V"-shaped channel.

[[[c05]]]Claim 5 (Currently Amended) The wire channel device of claim 1, the transverse leg further comprising a first lateral side and a second lateral side, the first lateral side having a female repository and the second lateral side having a male projection, wherein the male projection of a first wire channel device mates with the female repository of a

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second wire channel device such that the first wire channel snap fits into alignment and secures with the second wire channel.

[[[c06]]]Claim 6 (Currently Amended) The wire channel device of claim 1, the downwardly extending leg further comprising a first lateral side and a second lateral side, the first lateral side having a female repository and the second lateral side having a male projection, wherein the male projection of a first wire channel device mates with the female repository of a second wire channel device to align and secure the first wire channel device with the second wire channel device.

[[[c07]]]Claim 7 (Currently Amended) The wire channel device of claim 1, wherein a length of the upwardly extending arm comprises at least ~~about~~ one inch.

[[[c08]]]Claim 8 (Currently Amended) The wire channel device of claim 1, wherein a length of the transverse ~~leg~~ comprises at least ~~about~~ one inch.

[[[c09]]]Claim 9 (Currently Amended) The wire channel device of claim 1, wherein the downwardly extending leg comprises at least ~~about~~ one and a half inches.

[[[c10]]]Claim 10 (Currently Amended) The wire channel device of claim 1, wherein the downwardly extending leg extends downward at an angle of at least thirty degrees toward the ~~transverse leg~~.

[[[c11]]]Claim 11 (Currently Amended) The wire channel device of claim 1, wherein the projection comprises at least one substantially triangular-shaped lip.

[[[c12]]]Claim 12 (Currently Amended) The wire channel device of claim 1, wherein the projection comprises at least one substantially hook-shaped lip.

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[[[c13]]] **Claim 13** (Currently Amended) The wire channel device of claim 12, wherein the hook-shaped lip has an interior angle relative to the outer surface of the top portion of at least approximately fifteen degrees.

[[[c14]]] **Claim 14** (Currently Amended) The wire channel device of claim 1, wherein the wire channel device comprises at least one of the following materials:

metal,
 polymer,
 plastic,
 vinyl,
 ceramic,
 composite,
 glass, and
 crystal.

[[[c15]]] **Claim 15** (Currently Amended) A wire channel device for use with an upper siding panel and a lower siding panel, the upper siding panel having a rearwardly-facing hook portion and a lip portion and the lower side panel having a hooked portion complimentary to the lip portion of the upper siding panel, the wire channel device comprising:

at least one upwardly extending arm having a wedgeable projection to engage and to secure the wire channel device between the upper siding panel and the lower siding panel;

a transverse leg extending outwardly from the arm towards a downwardly extending leg of a wire channel, wherein the transverse leg extends beneath [[a]]the rearwardly-facing hook portion of [[an]]the upper siding panel; and

the wire channel having the downwardly extending leg, a channel portion, and a rear upwardly extending leg, wherein the downwardly extending leg is longer than the rear upwardly extending leg and wherein the channel portion defines a channel to retain a wire.

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[[[c16]]]Claim 16 (Currently Amended) The wire channel device of claim 15, further comprising:

the at least one upwardly extending arm having a top portion, a bottom portion, an inner surface, and an outer surface, the outer surface of the top portion having [[a]] the wedgeable projection to engage and to secure the wire channel device between the lip portion of the upper siding panel and [[a]]the complimentary hooked portion of [[a]]the lower siding panel, and a portion of the outer surface of the bottom portion connected with the transverse [[arm]]leg.

[[[c17]]]Claim 17 (Currently Amended) The wire channel device of claim 15, the transverse leg further comprising a first lateral side and a second lateral side, the first lateral side having a female repository and the second lateral side having a male projection, wherein the male projection of a first wire channel device mates with the female repository of a second wire channel device such that the first wire channel snap fits into alignment and secures with the second wire channel.

[[[c18]]]Claim 18 (Currently Amended) The wire channel device of claim 15, the ~~downwardly extending leg~~ channel portion further comprising a first lateral side and a second lateral side, the first lateral side having a female repository and the second lateral side having a male projection, wherein the male projection of a first wire channel device mates with the female repository of a second wire channel device to align and secure the first wire channel device with the second wire channel device.

[[[c19]]]Claim 19 (Currently Amended) A method of positioning a wire channel device, comprising the steps of:

positioning the wire channel device between a lip portion of an upper siding panel and a complimentary hooked portion of a lower siding panel, the wire channel device comprising

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a transverse leg extending outwardly towards a downwardly extending leg of a wire channel, wherein the transverse leg extends beneath a rearwardly-facing hook portion of an upper siding panel,

the wire channel having the downwardly extending leg, a channel portion, and a rear upwardly extending leg, wherein the downwardly extending leg is longer than the rear upwardly extending leg and wherein the channel portion defines a channel to retain a wire, and

at least one upwardly extending arm having a top portion, a bottom portion, an inner surface, and an outer surface, the outer surface of the top portion having a projection to engage and to secure the wire channel device between the lip portion of the upper siding panel and the complimentary hooked portion of the lower siding panel.

[[[c20]]]Claim 20 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

positioning the wire at an opening above an end portion of the rear upwardly extending leg and below the transverse leg; and

pushing the wire through the opening to the wire channel.